

COURSE 2, TUTORIAL 2

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SOCOM SBIR PROGRAM



The United States Special Operations Command or USSOCOM has its headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. It is the only Unified Combatant Command legislated into being by Congress and is charged with overseeing the Special Operations Component Commands of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. The special operations forces or SOF conduct covert and clandestine missions such as special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, unconventional warfare and many other special operations.

Let's talk about the USSOCOM SBIR program, also referred to as SBIR program. What does USSOCOM want to get out of it? What makes USSOCOM different than other SBIR agencies? USSOCOM is a combatant command with global responsibilities. A special operator needs to be equipped and trained to work in every environment within the world – in the air, on the land, on the surface of the sea and below the sea. SOCOM has component organizations of its own that mirror the services – so you will hear mention of the United States Army Special Operations Command [USASOC], the Air Force Special Operations Command [AFSOC], the Marines [MARSOC]. The Navy Component is referred to as the Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC).

The logo for USSOCOM is the spear and this symbol is incorporated in the SOCOM SBIR logo as the letter I. The special operators are at the tip of that spear and they require leading edge technology. When SOCOM sends special operators into harms way, it wants them to have a technological advantage over their adversaries. As the saying goes, a level playing field is for sports, not war. The USSOCOM SBIR and STTR programs focus exclu-

sively on the needs of the warfighter. Topics in a SOCOM solicitation are aligned with officially documented programs of record that verify a need for the Special Operations Forces.

USSOCOM participates only in the first solicitation cycle of the Fiscal year and also started an STTR program in 2013. USSOCOM expects that companies that receive SBIR or STTR funding from SOCOM will commercialize the technology and be a continuing source of supply.

USSOCOM wants to see leading edge technologies get to Phase III and benefit the special operator. In order to be successful in Phase III, you must understand the requirements of the Program Executive Office or PEO that is funding your SBIR award. It's important that you deliver your work on time and on budget – as USSOCOM wants reliable suppliers.

When working with SOCOM there are various avenues that you can investigate to determine if SOCOM has a need for your technology. The Technical Experimentation or TE events are



held three times a year for example and provide a unique opportunity for technology developers to interact with the SOF community in a collaborative environment. There is an application process to participate in a TE event. Another opportunity to gain more exposure is through attendance at the Special Operations Forces Industry Conference or SOFIC, held in May each year in Tampa, FL. This is where the leaders of SOCOM clarify what they need from industry. A third source to explore is the Technology and Industry Liaison Office, also referred to as the TILO office. In the links section of this tutorial links to TILO and these other sources are provided.

In closing, let me introduce the SOCOM PEOs. The Program Executive Offices are acquisition organizations that reside within the Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Center or SOF AT&L. Each PEO has a military or civilian official at the helm who has responsibility for directing several Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs) and non-major system acquisition programs.

PEO C4 is responsible for Command, Control, Communications and Computers. It includes enterprise networks transport, tactical coms, as well as Military Information Support Operations (MISO).

PEO Fixed Wing is responsible for Special operations manned and unmanned fixed wing airpower capabilities .

PEO Maritime's vision is to build unmatched affordable surface and undersea platforms that deliver SOF safely and undetected anytime and anywhere on the globe.

PEO Rotary Wing is responsible for providing the SOF community with the advanced vertical lift capability available to the US military.

SOF-Warrior provides enhanced lethality, mobility, and survivability while performing ground SOF activities across the spectrum of conflict in all environment conditions.

The Program Executive Office for **Special Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Exploitation (PEO-SRSE)** is responsible for the acquisition, fielding, and sustainment of intelligence systems for Special Operations Forces (SOF). The systems contribute directly to USSOCOM priorities to deter, disrupt, and defeat terrorist threats and sustain and modernize the force in persistent intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance.

And finally, **PEO Special Operations Forces Support Agency of PEO-SOFSA** supports the SOF community through the execution of contracting, financial management, and operations oversight to ensure dedicated, responsive, and cost-effective contractor logistics support services.

To learn more about the USSOCOM SBIR program please look at the USSOCOM SBIR website. Also be sure to look at TILO, the Technical and Industry Liaison Office and learn more about the USSOCOM PEOs.

USSOCOM SBIR RESOURCES

USSOCOM SBIR website

<https://www.ussocomsbir.com>

Technical Industrial Liaison Office (TILO)

<http://www.socom.mil/sordac/pages/submityouridea.aspx>

Technical Experimentation (TE) events

<http://www.socom.mil/sordac/pages/expwithus.aspx>

Special Operations Forces Industry Conference (SOFIC)

<http://www.sofic.org/Pages/Default.aspx>